

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07

LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 /082 W

----- 124493

R 041415Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8151

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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LONDON FOR SEITZ

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ELAB, KE, UG

SUBJECT: MOMBASA BOYCOTT OF UGANDA CIVILIAN CARGO LIFTED

REF: NAIROBI 2115, 1809

1. ON MARCH 4 EMBOFF CONTACTED JUMA BOY, GENERAL SECRETARY OF DOCK WORKERS UNION, IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN CLARIFICATION OF CONFLICTING REPORTS ON STATUS OF TEN DAY OLD LONGSHOREMEN'S BOYCOTT ON MOVEMENT OF UGANDAN CARGO. BOY, WHO IS ALSO HEAD OF KENYA'S MAJOR LABOR FEDERATION, SAID THAT, EFFECTIVE TODAY, BAN HAS BEEN LIFTED ON ALL CIVILIAN UGANDAN CARGO. BOYCOTT WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE ON ALL SHIPMENTS OF MILITARY RELATED ITEMS INCLUDING RECENTLY OFF-LOADED MILITARY TRUCKS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT OBTAINED FROM LIBYA. SHIPPING CONTACTS IN MOMBASS CONFIRM THAT DOCK WORKERS NOW HANDLING UGANDAN CIVILIAN CARGO. BOY SAID HE PREPARED

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TO SEE UGANDA-BOUND MILITARY EQUIPMENT "ROT ON THE

DOCK" AND ONLY DIRECT ORDER FROM KENYATTA WOULD CAUSE IT TO BE RELEASED FROM PORT AREA.

2. BOY, WHO PERSONALLY ORDERED BOYCOTT IN FEB. 23 MOMBASA SPEECH, SAID GOK OFFICIALS (ESPECIALLY PERMANENT SECRETARY KARIITHI IN PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AND COAST PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONER MAHIHU) HAD REPEATEDLY ASKED HIM OVER PAST WEEK TO CALL OFF BOYCOTT. ACCORDING TO BOY, HE STEADFASTLY REFUSED ON PATRIOTIC GROUNDS AND BECAUSE BOYCOTT WAS POPULAR WITH LONG-SHOREMEN. THIS POSITION CHANGED BY PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF PRESIDENT KENYATTA WHO TOLD BOY IN MARCH 3 TELEPHONE CONVERSATION THAT HE WAS UNDER MOUNTING PRESSURE FROM LEADERS OF OTHER OAU MEMBER STATES TO LIFT BAN. (NAIROBI PRESS ON MARCH 4 PUBLISHED PHOTOGRAPHS OF ZAIROIS ENVOY DELIVERING SPECIAL MESSAGE TO KENYATTA FROM PRESIDENT MOBUTU).

3. COMMENT: WITH NOTABLE EXCEPTION OF POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME ISSUE OF CONTINUED BLOCKAGE OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT, KENYAN-UGANDAN RELATIONS TTOLT#GRADUALLY RETURN TO NORMAL. MASS ANTI-AMIN DEMONSTRATIONS AND PORT BOYCOTT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE DEVICE TO RALLY POPULAR SUPPORT BEHIND GOK. WHILE AMIN HAS NOT APOLOGIZED IN SO MANY WORDS, HE HAS BACKTRACKED SUFFICIENTLY TO ENABLE KENYATTA AND KENYA TO TAKE SATISFACTION IN OUTCOME OF ILL-ADVISED UGANDAN DISPLAY OF IRREDENTISM.

DECON 1/1/77
MARSHALL

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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